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services, to execute this painful, but serviceable employment. They divide themselves into committees, each of which, for a stated period, visit and examine every part of the prison, and make a report to the inspectors, who meet at stated times to receive it. From these reports, they, with the consent of the judges, regulate the treatment of every prisoner during his confinement. Whatever may have been his crime, his repentance and future good conduct is invariably attended by a proportionate relaxation of discipline. The gradations are as follow; solitary confinement in a dark cell is, as has been already said, the severest punishment known; next solitary confinement in a cell which admits of light; next confinement in a cell where he is permitted to work alone; lastly, permission to work in company with others. The longest confinement is for a rape, which is not to continue less than ten years, or longer than twenty one. For high treason the duration varies from six to twelve years.

All the prisoners are obliged to bathe twice every week, for which the prison is supplied with every requisite accommodation, and also with changes of linen. Those who are sentenced to solitary confinement are fed on bread and water. To the working classes a more nutritive diet is permitted; they are even indulged in meat twice a week; but on no account whatsoever, is any liquor but water admitted within the prison walls. This regimen has been found capable of supplying strength sufficient for the labour undergone, and a more generous diet has been found incompatible with regularity and good order. The working prisoners are distributed into separate apartments, according to their trade; one for smiths, another for taylor, and so of the rest. In each room an overseer attends to prevent any irregularity; the workmen are forbidden to converse with each other, to sing, laugh, or in any manner divert their own, or their fellows' attention from their employment. The smallest resistance to these officers is followed by solitary confinement, and none who have once experienced its effects have ventured to provoke a repetition of it. The women are kept in distinct apart-

ments from the men, and employed in works adapted to their sex. Thus, this department resembles a great manufactory; a stranger at first could scarcely imagine himself to be in a place of punishment.

The mind is not only kept by employment, from imbibing bad habits, but care is taken both by the chaplain and inspectors to instil sentiments of religion; so that on the expiration of his sentence he returns to the world a new man; and care is taken to procure him immediate employment.

One circumstance more is worthy of notice, that instead of being an expense to the country, it produces an annual revenue to the state; such a system requires no comment. It is sincerely to be wished that its principle was adopted here, if not in a public prison, in a house of correction; by its adoption the country would be cleared of a number of vagrants, many useful members restored to society, who are at present its pest and bane, and all this at an expense, which, though heavy at first, would every day diminish until at length it would liquidate itself, and become, as in America, a source of public profit.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE MADMAN'S GRAVE.

IN the year 1793, an unknown maniac, whose dress and figure bore the vestiges of a once better lot, wandered to Ballycastle, a beautiful village on the shore of the county of Antrim. He was sullen, melancholy, and incommunicative: his days and nights were spent among the wild and lofty rocks in the neighbourhood of the bay, and his food was the shell-fish, or the sea-weed that was washed in by the tide. A life of such hardship and privation would have soon terminated the existence of one endued with unimpaired reason; but insanity hardens the constitution, by depriving it of a sense of its affliction, and by diverting the mind from real sorrow to imaginary objects. At certain periods of the month his sullenness was changed to frenzy, he then would groan and shriek as if suffering from excessive anguish, and although the neighbouring peasantry were frequently disturbed by his nightly moanings, yet, as he never attempted

any act of violence, they suffered him unrestrained to indulge his misery. For several weeks he thus continued alternately melancholy or outrageous, until one night in the latter end of July, when the neighbouring cottagers were awakened by the loudness and horror of his shrieks. For a while they continued violent, then grew fainter, and at length sunk in total silence. Early the following morning a fisherman arose to examine a kelp-kiln which he had lit the night before, when the shocking spectacle of the half-consumed maniac met his sight. The wretched sufferer, while wandering on the projecting ledge of a steep cliff, had missed his footing, tumbled down the precipice, and rolled into the blazing kiln, which burned at the base of the rock! His mutilated remains were enveloped in a piece of sail-cloth, and buried in a little green recess at the foot of the precipice from which he fell. The verdure of this spot is rendered more lively by being contrasted with the grey tints of the surrounding rocks; it is adorned by sea pinks and other marine flowers, and on no part of the romantic shores of Antrim does the traveller of taste* feel emotions more varied, or sensations more interesting, than on the spot where heaves the Madman's Grave.

Ballycastle.

L.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE LINEN LAWS.

IT is observed in the Commercial Report of November, that the quantity of coarse linens brought to Dublin for sale in the preceding month was not large.

It is to be feared the quantity will be less in a short time, which is principally occasioned by the deficiency of the linen laws; every person must be astonished when he knows that a piece of linen can be forfeited for being forestalled; yet the law suffers flax-seed to be bought up by the opulent, and held over for a high price, as was the case last Spring; that alone has had a material effect in making the linen scarce. Many of the farmers, and more of the low-

*Should such a traveller happen to meet this account, and wish to visit the spot it commemorates, it will be shown him by any of the cottagers, at Ballycastle-quay, on inquiring for *Port-na-Gree*.

er classes were led to believe that seed would not be had at any price; consequently part of the lands usually left for that crop, were sown with other seeds; it followed that a quantity of flax-seed was left unused.

If the spirit of monopolizing had stopt there, it would not have had so material an effect as was generally thought, great quantities of old flax, being in the country; but a number of avaricious men have stepped forward and raised the raw material to so great a height, that the poor and industrious can have little for their labour; and those unfeeling people (they cannot be otherwise termed) very industriously report that it has been shipped to England, &c. for the vile purpose of raising it yet higher.

It is to be hoped the linen-board will take this case into consideration, and make a law as much in favour of the poor spinner, as they have done for the linen buyer, who is very active in having any forestalling of linen punished, yet can overlook the practice of hoarding up flax. Gentlemen of landed property in the North of Ireland, would find it their interest to put a stop to the practice of forestalling flax or flax-seed (if possible) as it is by the profits of the linen manufacture, their rents are chiefly paid.

A FRIEND TO THE LINEN TRADE.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

TABLE-TALK.

(Continued from Page 195, No. III.)

AS Mr. and Mrs. Revel are personages of some importance, and the notion of the *conversazione* originated with them, a formal annunciation of them was needful. The other characters will unfold themselves sufficiently in the course of the conversations, with the exception of Dr. Sowerby, whose peculiarities require some explanatory introduction. He had in early youth been remarkable for unbounded inquisitiveness of temper: this is a disposition, which in children, affords the doating parents great delight, and when the little dears can tell tales of the servants, and little master can pry abroad, and pick up stories for home, the hearts of pappas and mamma are enchanted,